

HOUSE BILL 2465

By Baum

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 49
and Title 68, relative to athletics.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 68-55-502(b)(1)(B), is amended by deleting the first sentence of the subdivision and substituting instead the following:

Require triennial completion by all coaches, whether the coach is employed or a volunteer, and by school athletic directors of a concussion recognition and head injury safety education course program approved by the department; provided, that all coaches must complete the training no later than ninety (90) days after the start of the coach's employment or volunteer service, and triennially thereafter.

SECTION 2. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 68-55-503(b)(1)(B), is amended by deleting the first sentence of the subdivision and substituting instead the following:

Require triennial completion by the director of the youth athletic activity, all coaches, whether a coach is employed or a volunteer, and, if appointed, the licensed healthcare professional of a concussion recognition and head injury safety education course program developed by the department; provided, that all new directors of youth athletic activities, coaches, and licensed healthcare professionals, if appointed, must complete the training no later than ninety (90) days after the start of their employment or volunteer service, and triennially thereafter.

SECTION 3. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 68, Chapter 1, Part 1, is amended by adding the following as a new section:

(a) As used in this section:

(1) "Community-based youth athletic activity" has the same meaning as defined in § 68-55-501;

(2) "LEA" has the same meaning as defined in § 49-1-103; and

(3) "School youth athletic activity" has the same meaning as defined in § 68-55-501.

(b) Beginning with the 2025-2026 school year for each LEA and public charter school that provides a school youth athletic activity, and beginning on July 1, 2025, for each city, county, business, or nonprofit organization that organizes a community-based youth athletic activity, the following safety standards must be implemented:

(1) At least one (1) automated external defibrillator (AED) device must be present on site for all school youth athletic activities;

(2) All coaches, whether employed by the LEA or public charter school or a volunteer, must:

(A) Triennially complete a concussion recognition and head injury safety education course program approved by the department of health pursuant to § 68-55-502 or § 68-55-503, as applicable;

(B) Receive the same training in cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) and in automated external defibrillator (AED) use required for expected AED users in title 68, chapter 140, part 4. At least two (2) coaches must be CPR and AED certified; and

(C) Comply with all applicable background check and fingerprinting requirements of § 49-5-413; and

(3) The following plans and policies must be implemented at each public school, including public charter schools, for school youth athletic activities and for each city, county, business, or nonprofit organization that organizes a community-based youth athletic activity:

(A) An allergy and anaphylaxis emergency response plan that:

(i) Identifies the signs and symptoms of allergic reactions, including severe allergic reactions and anaphylaxis;

(ii) Provides information relating to the storage, location, use, and administration of epinephrine auto-injectors; and

(iii) Includes emergency follow-up procedures;

(B) An emergency action plan that facilitates and organizes the actions of coaches and athletes in an emergency; and

(C) A severe weather policy that requires all coaches who oversee or participate in outdoor training, practice, or competition to triennially:

(i) Complete a heat illness prevention course approved by the department of health; and

(ii) Receive training on activity modifications based on environmental conditions, such as lightning.

(c) Each LEA and public charter school that provides a school youth athletic activity, and each city, county, business, or nonprofit organization that organizes a community-based youth athletic activity, is encouraged to communicate with the department of health to ensure that all safety measures are up to date.

(d) Private schools, as defined in § 49-6-3001, that provide a school youth athletic activity are encouraged to comply with the safety standards outlined in subsections (b) and (c).

SECTION 4. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 49, Chapter 6, Part 3, is amended by adding the following as a new section:

(a) The department of education and the department of health shall develop and post on their respective websites guidelines and other relevant materials to inform and educate students, parents, and coaches about:

(1) The nature and warning signs of sudden cardiac arrest and the risks associated with continuing to play or practice after experiencing one (1) or more symptoms of sudden cardiac arrest, which include fainting, difficulty breathing, chest pains, dizziness, and an abnormal racing heart rate;

(2) Electrocardiogram (EKG) testing; and

(3) The student's or parent's option to request, from the student's family medical provider, that an electrocardiogram (EKG) be administered in addition to the student's comprehensive initial pre-participation physical examination, at a cost to be incurred by the student or the student's parent.

(b) The department of education shall develop a sudden cardiac arrest symptoms and warning signs information sheet that includes information about electrocardiogram (EKG) testing for purposes of § 49-2-136.

(c) In developing the guidelines and materials under subsection (a), the departments may utilize materials developed by outside organizations.

SECTION 5. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 49, Chapter 2, Part 1, is amended by adding the following as a new section:

49-2-136.

(a) A student participating in, or seeking to participate in, an athletic activity, and the student's parent or guardian must sign and return to the student's public school an acknowledgement of their receipt and review of a sudden cardiac arrest symptoms and warning signs information sheet developed by the department of education that includes information about electrocardiogram (EKG) testing. The acknowledgement form

required under this subsection (a) must be signed and returned each year that a student participates in, or seeks to participate in, an athletic activity.

(b) Each LEA and public charter school may hold an informational meeting before the start of each school athletic season for students, parents, coaches, and school officials to learn about the symptoms and warning signs of sudden cardiac arrest and to receive information about electrocardiogram (EKG) testing. Physicians, pediatric cardiologists, and athletic trainers may participate in the information meeting.

SECTION 6. Sections 1, 2, and 5 of this act shall take effect July 1, 2020, the public welfare requiring it. Section 5 of this act shall apply to the 2020-2021 school year and each school year thereafter. All remaining sections of this act shall take effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it.